



Plays the generation game





Vertu Ford for Northumberland

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welcome to autoh!

This is the 19th edition of AutOh! the North East's own motoring magazine. All of our magazines are delivered to carefully chosen households across NE, SR and DH postcodes and to over 150 businesses. We are the region's leading magazine for anyone who's interested in cars. As usual, there's a full round-up of latest news and products from your local franchise car dealers.

We let the sun shine in with the MINI Convertible Cooper S and we get blown away by the new BMW M240i xDrive

We've just got back from the launch of the 11th generation of the Honda Civic. We let you know what it's like. We've also been to the launch of the new Vauxhall Astra....fleet bu ers are getting excited.

Citroen have launched a big, luxurious, range-topping car. History tells us they're mad...but then we drove it and saw the price.

Stoneacre have been busy. They're revamping their Volvo dealerships and recently opened a new Volvo showroom in Sunderland.

A bit of research caught our eye here at AutOh! and we thought we'd share it with you. Those of us who live here in the North East already know we have some great beaches. Well, it's now official... the best beach in the UK is

Roker and Seaburn.

It's awards season. The guys at Hyundai and Lexus are going to need a bigger cabinet. We'll round-up who won which gongs.

We'll be trying the 7-seat Dacia Jogger, Toyota Aygo X and the SEAT Ibiza.

And we say goodbye to Peter 'Dinky' Dalkin...a true NE motoring legend.

Oh, and if you'd like to keep in touch with us, you can go onto our website www.autoh.co.uk You'll find I test news, video reviews and you can read previous editions

Graham Courtney, Editor.







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One of the worst injuries I've ever sustained was a broken wrist. I'm not sure which was more painful, the injury itself or the mocking I received when revealing how I broke it.

I fell off a skateboard. I was 46. I need to grow up.

However, something that is maturing nicely with age is the MINI. It recently celebrated its 21st birthday by being given a refresh. Oh and before anyone points out that the original Mini is a darn site older...it was launched in 1959...we're talking about the BMW owned MINI here.

The good news is that driving the current MINI is like its predecessor...it's still like riding a skateboard.

And lowering the hood in the MINI Convertible (it takes only 18 seconds) merely adds to the fantastic fun. It's ideal for the North East summer which, as we go to print, doesn't seem to be happening...yet.

The Cooper S version is still the one to go for if you want grin-a-minute motoring. It's a hoot to drive. There are three levels of trim...Classic, Exclusive and Resolute...but all come well equipped.

There's a new-look grille and a wider and lower front bumper which certainly gives the car a purposeful stance. Side vents allow air to fl w onto the brakes to keep

them cool. The rear of the Cooper S gets a wide diffuser which surrounds the twin exhaust pipes. There are new alloy wheels and a new range of colours. We think Zesty Yellow looks fab.

Inside, there's an updated infotainment system which now features an 8.8-inch display and new switchgear. You can use a rotary dial situated between the front seats to operate the system. It's simple and intuitive to use. The infotainment graphics have been updated and look

The steering wheel is new and feels lovely...it's chunky...and there's an option to have it heated.

Out on the road in the Cooper S Convertible, the ride has been much improved thanks to new suspension dampers. Okay there's a bit of fl xing caused by the missing tin roof, but it's not a problem.

Under the bonnet there's a tried and tested 2.0 litre 176bhp petrol engine. In the right conditions you can complete the 0-60mph dash in 6.7 seconds and go on to 146mph. Go easily and MINI reckon you can average 46.3mpg. Emissions are a low 139/km



Prices for the latest MINI 3 door Cooper S Convertible start at £29,040. You get all of the essentials like air con, decent audio system, electric windows and a stack of safety kit, but it's very easy to bump-up the price considerably by dipping into the extensive options list. Want some stripes on the bonnet? That'll be £150 please.

Things aren't all plain sailing. The MINI in 3-door guise is still tight for anyone sat in the back. Adults find it decidedly cramped. Boot space is limited. However, most folk will see this car as a one or two person mode of transport and will probably chuck stuff onto the back seats

But, if you want a car that provides in the hair, flies in the eeth fun, then the MINI Cooper S Convertible fits the bill. Build quality is outstanding. We think it looks great too.



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Audi Q2

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| £350.00 |
| £349.00 |
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| £1,999.00 |
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| £3,249.00 |
| £23,723.74 |
| £10.00 |
| £3,762.81 |
| £12,468.75 |
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When the chips are down, Tyneside & Wearside Audi fights back.

New stock arriving. Fixed price servicing options.

You've probably seen the story regarding the worldwide shortage of microchips, sometimes called semiconductors.

These tiny bits of wizardry, about the size of your thumbnail, control everything that is electric on a car....that's everything from air bags, ABS brakes, headlights, wipers, air con etc etc.

Have a guess how many microchips are on a top spec Audi.

Answer....up to around 8,000. That's a big bag of chips.

However, when you are two of the UK's leading Audi dealerships representing a world class manufacturer, you tend to find th t you get special treatment.

And that's what Tyneside Audi and Wearside Audi are doing for its customers. They're using their influen e to be at the front of the queue when it comes to sourcing new Audi models.

And it's working. More new Audis are appearing in a weekly basis at their dealerships on the Silverlink in Wallsend and Newcastle Road in Sunderland. Both dealerships are also pre-ordering cars to ensure that customers get a new car build slot. In other words, if you are looking for a new Audi, you need to call into Tyneside Audi or Wearside Audi because, unbeknown to you, the car you are looking for may actually be on the way....or they may even have one in

stock, ready to go.

Once you've got your new Audi....or of course selected one of their fully approved and fully checked used cars... you need to look after it. And the best way to do that is for the guys at Tyneside Audi and Wearside Audi to take care of your shiny new wheels.

As with every service, the Audi technicians only use Audi Genuine parts. The technicians know your car inside out....you're in safe hands.

Service plans help you avoid the one hit cost of getting your Audi serviced. You can spread the cost over twelve months...a bit like you may decide to do when you take out a car insurance policy or breakdown recovery cover. It allows you to build the costs of servicing and maintaining your car into your monthly budget. Simple.

So, what is an Audi servicing plan?

Service plans are available for new and used petrol, diesel, fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, so it doesn't matter what sort of Audi you have, you're covered. Prices will vary slightly according to the particular model of Audi you are wanting to be covered.

One option is called Audi All-In. It's a

2-year plan that includes two years warranty, two MOTs, servicing, and 2 years' AA roadside assistance. It's available for vehicles 3-6 years old with engines 2.0 litres and below and with less than 100,000 miles on the odometer. It excludes electric vehicles.

Another option is Audi's fi ed price service plan. This plan covers your next two services with a fi ed price throughout the duration. There are plans available for Audis O-3 years old (when they're still under the manufacturer warranty) or 3-15 years old. You'll get an oil and inspection service, pollen fil er change and a road test to ensure that everything is as it should be on your Audi.

In other words, there are various options depending on the age, power and model of your Audi. You can even work out a customised plan. It's also worth remembering that you get a two year warranty on all fit ed parts and, because you already know the prices, you will be protected if parts and labour prices increase.

Need more information on service plans or buying a new Audi, the best idea is to contact the team at Tyneside Audi on the Silverlink in Wallsend or Wearside Audi on Newcastle Road in Sunderland. They'll get you onto the road in a new Audi...and look after it for you too in a cost-effective manner.

It's called class-leading customer service.

SUNNY FUTURE FOR JUST 13 Just 12 Just

SEAT can do no wrong at the moment. Their Arona, Ateca and Tarraco SUV models continue to rack-up 5-star awards and both their Ibiza and Leon hatchbacks and estates have always been extremely popular.

SEAT can do no wrong at the moment. Their Arona, Ateca and Tarraco SUV models continue to rack-up 5-star awards and both their Ibiza and Leon hatchbacks and estates have always been extremely popular.

SEAT arrived in the UK in 1985 and the car leading from the front was the Ibiza.

Since then, it's grown-up and matured into a brilliant family supermini.

It still represents great value for money with the entry level SE trim kicking off at £17,755. This includes air con, Bluetooth, a decent audio system, DAB radio, powered mirrors and front windows, LED headlights, and a load of safety kit. You get a choice of two 1.0 litre petrol 3-cylinder engines offering either 79bhp or 94bhp. Both return mid 50s mpg but the bigger engine gives you more performance with 0-60 coming up in around 10.5 seconds. The 79bhp model can feel a bit tired if you're travelling with a decent load on board. For single person commuting...it'll be fine. Further up the range there's a 108bhp 1.0 litre engine, but we reckon the 94bhp will be ideal for most folk.



up to SE Technology trim. This gives you satellite navigation and a realty smart 10.25-inch colour touchscreen.

For some serious performance, head for the SEAT Ibiza FR. The suspension is stiffened and you can choose a 108bhp TSi engine which uses a 6-speed manual gearbox. You can also get an auto. 0-60 is a lively 10.3 seconds; top speed is 121mph. You can still expect 51mpg.

The ride is one of the best around for this size of car. There's the happy compromise of supple at slow speeds, but taut when you're pressing-on.

Handling is top notch and utterly

predictable. The Ibiza is a joy to drive.

The interior is roomy, comfortable and has a genuine feel of quality.

Our favourite? Go for the SE Technology trim and one of the more punchy petrol engines. They're lively, well priced and economical. What's not to love.

It's one of the best small hatchbacks currently available in the UK.



ALL ROADS POINT TO MORPETH

Got a Ford? Live in Northumberland? We have news.

Whenever you take your car or van to be serviced, MOT'd, repaired or just given a quick check, there is an assumption that the person who'll be doing the work will be a skilled technician and familiar with your brand and model of vehicle.

But are they?

If you don't take your car to a main dealer who sells and maintains the same brand of car or van that you own, do they really fully understand what's required? Will the warranty be invalidated?

Which of course is why a lot of us prefer to take our car to a main dealer who knows the model inside out and will be using the recognised, fully approved parts and lubricants. It's all a matter of confiden e. Oh and don't assume it'll cost more than the back street workshop round the corner.

The only snag is that sometimes your favourite local dealership or garage either closes or changes hands.

And that is what's happened in Alnwick. Ford owners across a large chunk of Northumberland went into a mild state of panic because the privately owned but Ford approved and much loved Motorcare Alnwick Service Centre shut its doors earlier this year on the 13th of

However, fear not.

25 minutes from Alnwick, down the A1, you will find the ver-helpful guys at Bristol Street Motors Ford in Morpeth. They have trained Ford technicians with a wealth of experience and will be able to pick up where you left off in Alnwick... it'll be seamless.

You might even recognise some of the familiar faces who'll be working on your car or van.

Terry Dunn
Parts Manager

David Coffey
Service Manager

If you have a Ford vehicle of any shape,
size, model, age, mileage or condition, ...
nobody can look after it better than a
fully trained Ford technician. All work

and parts come with a warranty.

So there you go. If you previously used the Ford Service Centre in Alnwick, you now have he best of both worlds. You live in a stunning part of the country and you will be looked after by Bristol Street Motors Ford in Morpeth.

And you'll find the y're open now, ready to look after your Ford...or of course any other vehicle. If you're passing by, pop in and say hello....there's always a warm welcome.

Car owners in Northumberland can heave a sigh of relief.





Ford Morpeth

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We're gonna need a bigger trophy cabinet.

And free servicing too.

A few years ago, the main reason for buying a Hyundai was because it came with a 5-year unlimited mileage warranty.

Wow....how things have changed.

If you've not sat in or driven a Hyundai recently, you are in for an almighty shock. The quality of the interior is stunning and the styling is distinctive. Sensibly priced too. You can see for yourself if you pop into a Bristol Street Motors retailer, near to you.

It also explains why the company is racking-up awards.

The big one was in April when the Hyundai IONIQ 5 picked up three awards....World Car of the Year, Electric Vehicle of the Year and Car Design of the Year.

A month earlier the IONIQ 5 was named UK Car of the Year. It was also named Best Family Car. The i20 N was named as Best Performance Car.

At the 2022 Autocar awards, the Hyundai i20 N won Britain's Most Affordable Driver's Car accolade, and the Hyundai Santa Fe was named Best Large Car

Meanwhile, at the Auto Express 2022 awards, the i20 N was named Best Hot Hatch, while the Tucson was recognised as Best Mid-Sized SUV.

At the start of the year we had the prestigious What Car? magazine awards. For a lot of folk these are the ones which carry the most weight because the reviews have been done mainly on British roads by British journalists who understand the British car-buying public.

The Tucson was named What Car? Tow Car of the Year as well as Best Family SUV for Practicality. The Santa Fe was named Large SUV of the Year,



Quick look at those featured cars.

If you are serious about electric, go onto the AutOh! magazine website and you'll see our report from the previous edition where we raved about the IONIQ 5. No wonder it's a multi-award winning car.

Want something bigger? Check out the Tucson and Santa Fe.

Previous Santa Fe drivers will spot a lift in interior quality. It's a seriously good-looking car aimed at families who want to do some touring. The Santa Fe is a rarity because it comes with seven seats. Drop those seats into the floor and ou have a massive load area.

You can adjust the driving characteristics for Sport, Comfort and Eco. Despite its size, the Santa Fe feels nimble on the road. It's an extremely relaxed cruiser.

If you're looking for a car which will happily cope with the school run, commuting and shopping, then the Hyundai Tucson will fit the bill. I 's deceptively roomy. Family transportation doesn't get any better. The boot area is



also impressive. Summer holidays will no longer requires days of preparation.... just take everything. If you need a car that'll become part of the family, you can't go wrong with the Hyundai Tucson.

And what about the other award winner...the Hyundai i20 N? The range of N cars have their roots in Hyundai's motorsport department and it's no surprise that this car can excite. Under the bonnet there's a 1.6 litre 201 bhp petrol engine mated to a 6-speed manual gearbox. How does 0-60 in a shade over 6 seconds and a top speed of 143mph grab you? Go easily though and you'll crack 40mpg. If you fancy some grin-a-minute motoring, this is the perfect place to start.

The Hyundai range has something for everyone. Every model is smart, drives well, is extremely economical and, in the case of the pure-electric models, offer a serious opportunity to go electric.

And the good news keeps on coming. Every new Hyundai bought before 30th September will receive 3 years free servicing. This represents a significant saving on your costs.

Oh, and they still come with a 5-year unlimited mileage warranty.

What's not to love.

Find the award winning Hyundai range at a Bristol Street Motors retailer, near to you.





3 Years Free Servicing on the Hyundai Range[^] For more information **Click Her Р** НҮППОЯІ **RETAILER OF THE** TrinGear. **YEAR 2021** JOINT WINNER Offer ends **Customer Focus Dealer Group HYUNDA** Bristol Street Motors Hyundai 30th September 2022 MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

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0330 0960 866

Hyundai Sunderland

Wessington Way, Castletown, Sunderland, SR5 3NX

0330 178 8733

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Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai Tucson 1.6 TGDi SE Connect 5dr 2WD: 42mpg, 150 bhp, 151 CO2 g/km. Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai Bayon 1.0 TGDi 48V MHEV SE Connect 5dr: 53 Mpg, 100 Bhp, 120 CO2 g/km. Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai i20 1.0T GDi 48V MHD 120 N Line 5dr: 53 mpg, 119 CO2 g/km, 120 bhp. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

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MARKS THE SPOT

for Toyota Aygo...city car driving with a dollop of attitude.

The original Toyota Aygo shared a large chunk of its body and oily bits with the Citroen C1 and Peugeot 108. All three were built alongside each other at a plant in the Czech Republic. However, Toyota are now on their own.

We think it looks rather good in a funky sort of way. It's got a bit of SUV crossover about it despite still being a 3-door hatchback. It also drives really well and will suit our cities and roads for the simple reason that it's been largely centre in the south of France.

There's just a single engine....a 1.0 litre 71bhp petrol unit with power going to the front wheels via either a 5-speed takes a shade under 15 seconds and the aimed a city life and therefore economy is important. Go easily and

In terms of trim there are 3 options...Pure, Edge and Exclusive... and if you



integration via Apple CarPlay or Android you get a seriously impressive list of safety equipment included as standard. The car should also be extremely

recognise a lot about the interior of this It all feels like decent quality stuff too and looks smart.

does. Even when pushing along a twisty road, the Aygo X has a really smooth ride. And bearing in mind that it's a also room for four adults. Okay those in but, hey, this is a city car so you're unlikely to be travelling too far with four adults on board.

well equipped and, with a starting price of £15,405, it looks like decent value.





HONDA PLAYS THE GENERATION GAM

And it's come up with a winner.

The latest 11th generation of the Honda Civic officially arrives in the UK next month.but we've already driven it having been on the European launch, driving around the countryside near Madrid.

A crucial thing to point out is that this A crucial thing to point out is that although this car is built in Japan, it's been designed for the most part by Honda Europe....especially the driving dynamics...and on fir t impressions they've done a decent job.

The latest Civic is a self-charging hybrid... the fir t time it's appeared in a Civic. Don't bother looking for any other power options because there aren't any.

Under the bonnet there's a 2.0 litre petrol engine which works in tandem with the battery powered hybrid system. Add the outputs together and you get

Everything goes via a type of CVT gearbox...but only for part of the time. The engine works as a generator for the electric motor. The motor propels the car along. However, if you need a burst of power, the power from the petrol engine engages a clutch which seamlessly sends an extra dollop of oomph to the front



wheels. Clever huh?

0-60 comes up in a decent 7.9 seconds. Top speed is 112mph. As for economy, the headline figu e of 60mpg is more than reasonable. The car is also extremely quiet and refined or the simple reason that it's going along using battery power for most of the time.

Out on the road, the ride is a tad firm but it never feels harsh. The handling is excellent and it has a sporty feel. Fun too

This is a much better car than the model it replaces. There's a quality feel to the materials used throughout the cabin... the seats are comfortable and it's surprisingly roomy. It'll make for terrific family motoring.

You get loads of kit as standard. Every Civic gets a 9-inch infotainment screen which controls stuff like the sat nav and audio. You get heated front seats, powered windows, air con, front and rear parking sensors, rear view camera and smart alloys. Entry level trim is called Elegance, but if you move up to Sport trim you'll get part-leather seats, front fog lights and flashier wheels, while if you want top of the range Advance you'll get a sunroof and powered seats as standard

And finall ...prices. The 11th generation Honda Civic range kicks off at £400 shy of 30 grand. At fir t glance, that looks a bit punchy....but you need to drive the new Civic and take a close look inside. The finish and build quality is op notch...it's well equipped and it's very economical. Civics also hold onto their

Interested? Order books are open...

HONDA

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www.vertumotors.com/honda

CITROËN ARE BUILDING A NEW BIG LUXURY CAR





Do you remember the Citroën C6 or the XM?

So it's not just us then.

To be fair, the C6 in particular was a good-looking thing and was as comfy as your favourite sofa. But it was pricy and depreciation was dreadful.

Consequently, we were a bit surprised to receive an invitation for the launch of the latest Citroën...the C5 X...probably best defined as a big estate car come hatchback with a dollop of SUV plus a raised ride height. It's distinctive in a good way. It looks great.

The clincher could be the starting price...a very tempting £27,790 which means you're getting a lot of well-kitted out car for not too much money. It's about the same price as an entry level VW Golf.

Citroën have been busy improving the used value of their cars. They've not gone down the fleet market route and have concentrated on private buyers. They're winning the battle against poor the marketplace.



Time will tell whether this plan works, but if you're looking for a very comfortable, well-equipped and wellpriced big, versatile car, we reckon this

Quick rundown of what it is.

There are three engine options....two petrol and one petrol plug in hybrid. There's a 1.2 litre 3 cylinder engine developing 129bhp and a 1.6 litre 178bhp 4-pot. The 1.2 litre hits 60mph in just over 10 seconds. At the top of the range there's a 1.6 litre plug in hybrid which, when you add the engine and electric powertrain together, gives you a healthy 225bhp. 0-60 comes up in a shade under 8 seconds. We reckon private buyers will go for the 1.2 litre model.. business users will head for the hybrid which can manage just over 30 miles using battery power alone.

All three power plants get an 8-speed automatic gearbox. A cushy ride, no surprise, is guaranteed.

You can choose from three trim levels called Sense Plus, Shine and Shine Plus. Even the entry level is well equipped with a smart 10-inch central touchscreen that incorporates the sat nav and audio. Front and rear parking sensors and a reversing camera come as standard. The interior has a premium feel...it looks smart and rather upmarket.

Needless to say that there's loads of room in the front and back...the boot is a decent size too.

The clincher could be that starting price. When you compare this Citroën C5 X to



SUPER-STYLISH PEUGEOT HAS ARRIVED

The 308 is another cracker from their designers



It's hard to quantify just how much Peugeot has changed when it comes to the styling of their cars. It has been an incredible transformation.

And the fl w of new models continues with this 3rd generation Peugeot 308, available either as the 308 fi e-door hatchback or 308 SW station wagon... (posh term for an estate). If you want to see how good they look, pop into Bristol Street Motors Peugeot Sunderland and see for vourselves.

In terms of engines you can choose from 1.2 litre petrol, 1.5 litre diesel and a pair of 1.6 litre petrol plug-in hybrids developing either 178bhp or 222bhp. Both hybrids

will travel to up to 37 miles on battery power alone. For some people that will be their daily commute without using any petrol. All engines are mated to an 8-speed auto 'box. Oily bits are identical for hatch and SW.

5 trims are available....Active Premium, Allure and GT plus Premium versions of the latter pair. All come with Peugeot's seriously smart and futuristic i-Cockpit fascia, 10-inch touchscreen, air con, rear parking sensors, DAB radio, powered and heated folding mirrors, and LED headlights.

Out on the road the Peugeot 308 is great to drive and has that nice compromise between comfy around town yet taut enough on motorways and on the twisty stuff.

Prices for the 308 start at £25,380. Add £1200 for the SW model. We'd pay an extra £850 to move up to Allure trim because that adds sat nav, tinted glass, front parking sensors and a reversing camera. It makes the 308 feel even more special.

Comfortable, quiet, well-equipped even in entry level trim, great to drive, decent and looks a million dollars.

Find yours at Bristol Street Motors Peugeot Sunderland.



Peugeot Sunderland

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Fuel figures for the Peugeot 308 range. (WLTP) - CO₂ mass emission - Combined (g/km) 129, Fuel Consumption - Combined (mpg) 52.1. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

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New Vauxhall Astra has landed. LET LES AND LET CONTINUE CONTINUE

As new car launches go, attending the unveiling of the latest Vauxhall Astra... the eighth generation to be precise...is incredibly important to the UK motoring landscape. There's a near certainty that all of you reading this will have at some point driven a Vauxhall (or Opel) Astra. Vauxhall want to tap into as many of you as possible as well as attracting new buyers.

This is the car that company fleet managers, hire firms and private buyers will compare to the other big hitters in the marketplace like the Volkswagen Golf and Ford Focus as well as an everincreasing selection from those new kids on the block at Kia, Hyundai, Nissan and, yes, even Tesla.

So how does the latest Vauxhall Astra

First impressions as you walk up to the car are good. It looks smart...quite distinctive actually. The front visor type of styling looks really neat.

Let's take you through the range which is available at launch at your local Bristol Street Vauxhall dealerships in Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham. Other models will appear over subsequent months including an allelectric model which arrives next year.

The engines are a pair of turbocharged



1.2 litre 3-cylinder petrol engines developing 108bhp or 128bhp...the 108 comes with a 6-speed manual gearbox only...the 128 gets a choice of an 8-speed auto 'box. There's a single 1.5 litre diesel which also develops 128bhp and comes with an 8-speed auto only. Top speed for those petrol and diesel engines is in the region of between 124 and 130mph. The more powerful 1.2 litre petrol hits 60 in 9.7 seconds.,.the diesel is a tad slower at 10.6 seconds but it'll give you over

60mpg.

At the top of the engine range there's a single 1.6 litre plug-in hybrid which, together with the electric motor develops 178bhp so you get 0-60 in a shade over 7 seconds and a top speed of 140mph. If you just use battery power you can still hit 84mph but if you go steadily you can travel for 43 miles before the engine bursts into life. That's more than likely to be sufficient mileage for most people's daily commute. An 8-speed auto comes as standard.

If you want to charge the battery, it takes between around 2 and 3 hours depending on the charger you use.

As for the various derivatives it's great to report that Vauxhall have taken a leaf out of the rest of the other manufacturers in the Stellantis stable of which Vauxhall is now a part, and chopped the amount of model, engine and gearbox combinations they offer





across their range. It's plummeted from a staggering 362 to a very sensible 54.

As for trims in the Astra...there are 3....Design, GS Line and Ultimate. The big surprise is that there's only £30 between each trim. The smallest of the 1.2 litre engines is only available with the entry level Design trim...the other engines can choose from everything.

For a lot of potential buyers, the clincher will be price and you have to say that £24,315 for the entry level trim in the 1.2 litre engine is extremely competitive.

Vauxhall reckon that GS Line...the middle trim...will be the most popular, accounting for around 60 per cent of all buyers. £27,210 will get you into the 1.2 litre 128bhp GS Line car which, again, looks like decent value. £32,000 is the starting price for the 1.6 hybrid.

What do you get in terms of trim? Well



the entry level 1.2 Design model gets a pair of 10-inch touchscreens, air con, LED headlights, front and rear parking sensors, smart cruise control, a DAB radio, smartphone connectivity and keyless start.

Move up to GS line and you can add heated sports seats, heated steering wheel, 360 degree parking camera, adaptive cruise control and a black roof which we think makes the car look really Out on the road, the hybrid model is the smoothest and even when the 1.6 litre bursts into life, you struggle to hear it. The other engines are never noisy though. All Astras ride really well... they're comfy too. The suspension is nicely set-up...there's that neat compromise between taut enough on the quicker stuff yet sufficiently complaint at town speeds.

We reckon the top seller will use the more powerful 1.2 litre petrol engine which, incidentally is used across the Stellantis range at the likes of Peugeot and Citroen, and the most popular trim is likely to be GS Line. In other words, plenty of kit as standard, decent performance and, go easily, you'll get 51.3 mpg. But it's that eye-catching £27,210 price for the best engine and best trim which should persuade buyers to give this new Astra a serious look.

AND....Vauxhall reckon it'll hold onto its value...time will tell.

This car is a quantum leap forward from the previous Astra. Vauxhall joining Stellantis has had a massive impact. Looks good, drives well, plenty of kit and a price that looks very tempting.

Interested? You should be. Pop into your local Bristol Street Vauxhall dealerships in Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham.





Petrol. Diesel. Hybrid

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Representative Finance Example: Vauxhall Astra 1.2 Turbo Design 5dr Petrol Hatchback

| CUSTOMER DEPOSIT | 47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS | FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE | CASH PRICE | AMOUNT OF CREDIT | OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT | TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE | DURATION OF AGREEMENT | | REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED) |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| £1,500 | £330 | £500† | £24,295 | £22,295 | £11,124 | £28,964 | 48 Months | 6.69% | 6.9% APR |

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Vauxhall Sunderland Alexandra Avenue, Hylton Riverside, Sunderland, SR5 2TB

03300 960 853

Vauxhall Durham Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5DQ 0330 1080 192 bristolstreet.co.uk/vauxhall

Fuel figures for the All-new Astra range. (WLTP) - CO₂ mass emission - Combined (g/km) 114-124, Fuel Consumption - Combined (mpg) 52-67. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

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VOLVO IN SUNDERLAND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland, on Riverbank Road, (opposite Sainsbury's) has unveiled its brand-new £5million showroom.











Stoneacre Volvoat lot of you will remember the company here in the North East as Mill Volvo...is one of the biggest Volvo franchisees in the country. What this means is that Volvo place Stoneacre at the top of the pecking order when it comes to refurbishing showrooms and ensuring that new cars are available for customers.

deal with plenty of familiar faces. New

site...same attention to customer service.

Actually, that final point is important because you've probably seen the headlines about a shortage of new cars due to problems with the supply of microchips (semi-conductors). A microchip is about the size of a postage stamp but each one controls something electrical on every car....that's equipment like sat navs, air conditioning, powered windows, audio systems, indicators etc. Okay, you might say that those items aren't critically important, but we're sure you'll change your mind when you learn that the microchips also control the ABS brakes, power steering, air bags and a whole host of driver assistance gadgets.

And Volvo aren't exempt from the shortage of these tiny but vital pieces of kit

Which is where the size of Stoneacre comes in very handy because they will always have sufficient influen e to ensure that new cars continue to fl w



into their dealerships.

In fact, if you go to Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland, you will find a selection of brand new cars, ready to drive away.

Oh....and the new showroom is well worth a special visit. It features Volvo's signature lounge area, complete with Scandinavian furniture, free Wi-Fi and Swedish cakes and coffee.

David Nicholson, from Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland, said: "This is an incredibly exciting time for staff and customers at our Volvo dealership. The refurbishment is about more than a change of furniture – it's designed to create a space where our customers can feel relaxed and at ease in an environment that provides fl xible waiting, working and assessment areas.

"With the phasing-out of petrol and diesel cars in the coming years, our new state-of-the-art facility is ready for the future, with a range of plug-in hybrid models to choose from, plus

the pure electric C40. They sit proudly alongside a selection of used cars from our Volvo Selekt range. "We cannot wait to welcome customers to our new-look home for all their Volvo requirements and, crucially, a personalised experience with our expert team."

Volvo Personal Service is something which has recently been introduced by Stoneacre Volvo. It means that when you book your car in for any sort of



attention or service, you will be dealt with by the same technician at the point of booking, right through to explaining what has been done during the service. The technician knows precisely what's been done because they carried it out themselves. Actually, two technicians generally work together on each car therefore reducing the time it takes for any service to be fulfilled.

And of course there will be a Volvo Motability expert on hand to take anyone who qualifies for mobility assistance through the full range of cars which are available as well as prices and how the scheme works.

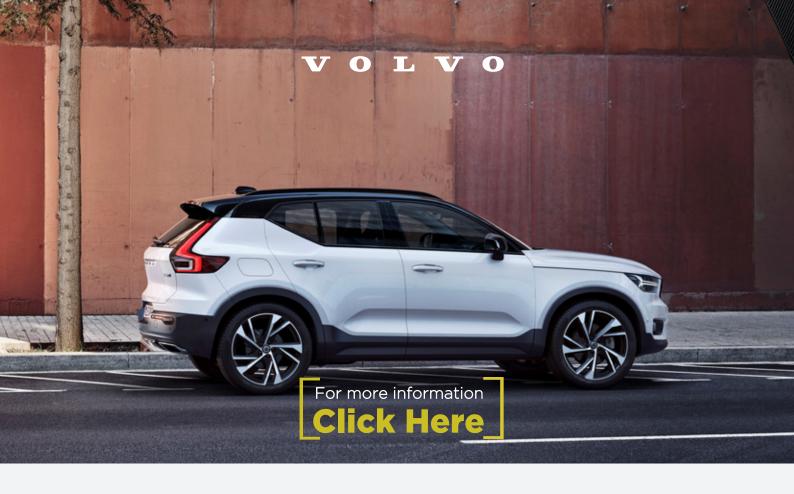
If you live in Tyneside, Teesside or North Yorkshire, you'll also find that there has been extensive refurbishment work going on at dealerships on the Scotswood Road in Newcastle, Preston Farm Business Park in Stockton, and the St James's Retail Park in Knaresborough.

We think you'll love the new showroom in Sunderland. It's modern but friendly.... cool but warm

Why not drop in? You're bound to recognise someone.

And yes....the big surprise....there are brand new cars ready to go.

Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland, Riverbank Rd, Sunderland SR5 3JJ. Call them on 0191 516 2800 or visit the Stoneacre Volvo website.



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Personal Contract Hire, 48 month agreement, 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charges 13.8p per mile apply, you can never own the vehicle.

Official fuel consumption and CO2 figures for the MY23 Volvo Cars range*, in MPG (I/100km): WLTP Combined 29.4(9.6) – 403.0(0.7). WLTP CO2 emissions 218 – 0g/km. WLTP electric energy consumption 2.5 – 4.1 miles/Wh. Equivalent all electric range 25.6 – 274.0 miles. 'Preliminary data. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and equivalent electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. Figures shown include battery and fuel powertrains where applicable. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. All offers subject to terms and conditions and are as part of a Stoneacre finance plan. Finance provided subject to status, written details available on request. Models shown are for illustration purposes only. Ask for details. Cars may be in group stock. Stoneacre operate as an Independent finance Introducer from a panel of lenders. Stoneacre do not charge a fee for introduction to a finance provider however we may or may not receive a commission. Offers correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change. Subject to Your status, if after signing the Purchase Order You sign a Finance Agreement with a Finance Company in relation to the Vehicle, the terms of the Finance Agreement. The standard terms of the Finance Agreement will be stated on the Finance Agreement will replace this Supplier Agreement. The standard terms of the Finance Agreement will be stated on the Finance Agreement will replace this Supplier Agreement. The standard terms of the Finance Agreement will be stated to sign. Decidebloom Ltd Va Stoneacree, Omega Boulevard, Capitol Park, Thorne, DN8 5TX, is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our FCA.

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SUPERCARS CAR COMING TO A LOTTERY WINNER NEAR YOU!

Some rather expensive metal is arriving in the UK.

I don't know about you, but finances are getting tight in our household. As my father once said to the assembled family... "We've got cashflow problems in this house. More is flowing out than flowing in."

At which point various lights were turned off and the heating was turned down.

Our house is a bit like that at the moment.

But there are some lucky folk out there who are in the market for £Imillion cars, although some very tasty machinery is available for a lot less.

Anyway, here's our pick of the bunch. Time to dream a little.



Ferrari Daytona SP3

In 1967 Ferrari came 1st 2nd and 3rd at the Daytona 24 Hours. This car is a nod to that race. It has a few styling cues from some of Ferrari's older models. It's also the first mid-engined Ferrari since we waved goodbye to LaFerrari in 2018. Power comes from a 6.5 litre V12 which packs 829bhp. This gives you a 0-60 time of 2.85 seconds and a dizzying top speed of 211mph which matches the top speed of previous fastest Ferraris. The interior is a work of art. To keep weight to a minimum the two seats are actually part of the bodywork. Ferrari will build 599 examples. Prices are around £2.0m.

Gordon Murray Automotive T.33

Gordon Murray is a proper old school designer in many respects. Yes the T.33 is super sleek and futuristic but when it comes to everything else it's all about weight and power. In other words, as little weight as possible and a thumping great load of power. Exclusive too...only 100 will be made. The engine is a V12 617bhp 3.9 litre Cosworth unit which revs to 11,100rpm. 75 per cent of the power is available at 2500rpm though. You can expect similar performance figures to that of the Daytona. The body is carbonfibre allowing the entire car to weigh roughly the same as a VW Polo. Price around £1.37m before taxes.





McLaren Artura

This is a ground-up brand new car. And it's a plug-in hybrid. There's 577bhp from the 3.0 litre twin turbo V6 petrol engine and 94bhp from the electric motor. This gives you a 0-60 time of 3.0 seconds, 0-125mph in 8.3 seconds and a top speed of 205mph. You can travel 20 miles on electric juice only. Oh and if you were worried about this hi-tech wizardry being unreliable, don't panic. The car gets a 5-year warranty. McLaren want this to be a useable car...not just for weekend blasts. Dial 'comfort' into the suspension and engine mode and you should have an everyday supercar. Price £185,500.



Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS

If you reckon that your standard Cayman isn't quite up to sporting standard, here's the answer. The GT4 RS follows a tried and tested formula...increase the power and reduce the weight. Power from the 4.0 litre 6-cylinder petrol engine rises to 493bhp. 0-60 time improves to 3.4 seconds and top speed climbs to 196mph. In effect, it's the same engine as in the 911 GT3. Body parts have been replaced with carbonfibre and the insulation has been reduced. To increase downforce there's an impressive rear wing and the suspension has been lowered by 30m. It'll be fun on the road or the track. Price is £113,000.

Ferrari 296 GTB

This is Ferrari's answer to the McLaren Artura. It's a plug-in hybrid. The engine is a 6-cylinder unit which is something we haven't seen in the sort of Ferraris the general public can buy for about 50 years. It's 2.9 litres, twin turbo, 817bhp when you add in the electric motor, 0-60 in 2.9 seconds, 7.3 seconds to 125mph, top speed 205mph. If you want to be über economical you can travel for 15 miles on electric power alone. As with the McLaren, Ferrari wants this car to be everyday useable. The order book is open; deliveries are due after summer. Price in the region of £241,000.



Hispano Suiza Carmen

How does 991bhp sound...or 1085bhp if you go for the full fat version? That what you get with this car...and it's 100% electric. The firm was founded in Barcelona in 1904 by Damián Mateu, and it's still in family run by his greatgrandson. 0-60mph in 2.6 seconds; top speed 180mph. Power goes to the rear axle with two electric motors for each wheel. The firm reckons on a range of about 250 miles. You clamber in via butterfly door. Only 19 examples will be built. Prospective owners can choose from over 1000 options. There's no rush because each car takes seven months to build. Price is £1.3m.



Mercedes AMG SL

The SL is back with a bang. After being dubbed as a bit of a footballers' wives car, Mercedes have let their sporting arm AMG sort this 7th generation. It's gone back to being a proper driver's car while

still being the ultimate cruiser. It's also gone back to being a 2+2 soft-top. To start with you can choose from the SL 55 or SL 63 which both use a 4.0 litre V8 petrol engine and a 9-speed auto 'box. The 55 churns out 469bhp while the 63 ups the game to 577bhp and can hit 60mph in 3.6 seconds. Plug-in hybrid and electric models are in the pipeline. The interior is a work of art. Price around £171,000 for the SL 63

Lotus Emira

Feast your eyes on this. It's the last-ever petrol engine powered Lotus. From then on, it's electric all the way. The Emira gets a 3.5 litre supercharged V6 sourced from Toyota to start with (First Edition) and then later in the year a 2.0 litre Mercedes engine joins the party. The V6 engine which powers the car to 60 mph in a shade over 4.0 seconds and goes on to 180mph, sits just behind the cabin and drives the rear wheels. This car is the first product since Geely took over the company. Geely did great things for Volvo....they aim to do the same with Lotus. The future for Lotus looks bright. Price for the First Edition from £76,000





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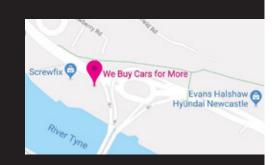
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Aston Martin is changing. They're launching a new marketing strategy which will herald the arrival of new and exciting cars as the company moves forward at an ever-increasing pace.

It even includes a subtle redesign of the iconic Aston Martin wings logo which, you'll be interested to know, is the work of a firm in Birmingham that also crafted the FA Cup and made the medals for the 1908 London Olympics. So now you know. You'll see the logo on the Aston Martin F1 cars too.

Thankfully, some things will never change at Aston Martin. Their cars are still a case of luxurious craftsmanship, sophisticated design and an intense driving pleasure.

And that is exactly the thinking behind the title of their new campaign..... Intensity. Driven.

And the word 'new' is key here because Aston Martin is being successful in attracting new customers rather than traditional buyers who keep coming back for more of, probably, the same thing.

Over 60 per cent of current Aston Martin buyers are new to the marque. There is a new generation of buyers who're attracted by the way Aston Martins look and drive. They love the sound; they love the performance and they love the build quality.







A lot of them also love the fact that you can now buy an SUV which not only bears the Aston Martin badge but also still looks, drives and performs precisely how you would like an Aston Martin to look, drive and perform. It now ranks as Aston Martin's top seller. The first example of the latest DBX version, the DBX707 which is widely praised as the world's most powerful SUV, has just been delivered to its new owner. The 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 from the original DBX goes into this new model but it gets a power hike to 697bhp which, in metric terms, is 707PS...hence the name. 193mph and 0-62mph in a time of just 3.3 seconds should be just fine for an SUV!!! Wow.

Elsewhere in the Aston Martin range there is a nod to tradition, but in a very 21st Century way. They look like a traditional Aston Martin, but as soon as you climb in and fire-up the engine, you know that this is a nod to the future.

The V8 Vantage is a stunner. The Mercedes-AMG 4.0 sourced 4.0 litre engine has a fabulous note and produces similar performance to that of the V12 which is completing its final build run. The Vantage is also available as a drop-dead gorgeous roadster. Wind in the hair, flies in the teeth motoring never looked or sounded so good.

At the other end of the Aston Martin range you'll find the DBS. I you want long-legged V12 classic GT cruising, look no further. Effortless performance and a wonderful driving sensation mean you really could set off for the Côte d'Azur and know you'll arrive totally unflustered, unshaken but definitely stirred.

And lastly, the latest in a line of legends...the DB11. Next year will see the 75th anniversary of DB1...the start of an iconic motoring bloodline. The latest model is available as a V12 coupé or, if you go for the V8 engine, you can get either a tin-top coupé or Volante soft-top. All of them combine terrific everyday performance and fun in what rates as one of the most stunningly handsome cars on the planet.

Want to become part of the new generation of Aston Martin buyers? Yep...thought so.

The North East says goodbye to Peter 'Dinky' Dalkin

The North East motoring community is a very close knit family. We have a history in this region of car companies that have been founded by one or two members of a family. Subsequent generations then build upon those foundations and take the business forward.

One of those companies is Wingrove Motor Company.

The leading light of the business was Peter Dalkin who sadly passed away earlier this year at the age of 81.

Wingrove was founded in 1925 by John Myers Dalkin Snr....Peter's grandfather. Peter, known to many people as Dinky, joined the firm in 1962 h ving completed his motor mechanic apprenticeship.

Motorsport runs through the veins of the Dalkin family, and it was this passion for tuning high performance cars that led Peter to form the Perdal Performance Company which eventually became an arm of the Wingrove firm p oviding anything and everything to motorsport teams and individuals ranging from a simple carburettor to a full race engine.

The Wingrove Motor Company grew steadily and eventually had two sites in Newcastle... one on West Road and one on Elswick Road...but when Peter became a director of the firm in 1 70 following the death of his father, he and his brother Brian opened new sites in Gateshead and Whitley Bay, both with car sales, workshop and petrol forecourt. Petrol was a big part of the business turnover....a one point they were 2nd biggest petrol retailer in the North East after Scotch Corner.

1969 saw Wingrove begin their longstanding partnership with Citroen.

Peter, like his father, used to take part in races driving various Citroens. He not only raced in several of the UK's leading rallies at the time like the RAC Round Britain Rally, but he also drove in the prestigious Paris-Dakar Rally. He even had time to win the 1991 2CV 24 Hour race at Mondello Park in Ireland. Daughter Louise and son were part of the team. In 2016 he came 5th in the Elim Citroen 2CV 24 Hour Race and in 2019 he led Team Wingrove at the Spa Formula One circuit in Belgium racing, you guessed it, a Citroen 2CV.

The 1980s saw Peter leading further development of the business. The Elswick Road site was redeveloped with a construction of a large purpose-built showroom and offi es (designed by architect daughter Louise) as well as acquiring new premises in Hexham. It was no surprise therefore that Peter was regularly receiving accolades as the





man at the helm of one of the UK's most successful Citroen dealerships. Wingrove became a fixtu e in the UKs top three for Citroen sales. Peter was named as Chairman of the Citroen UK Dealer Council.

In the mid-1970s, Citroen was taken over by the French owned PSA Group (now part of Stellantis) which had Peugeot as its major brand. No surprise therefore that PSA would be in touch with Peter to expand the Wingrove operation. Consequently in 2018 what was now the Wingrove Motor Group added Peugeot to its portfolio. Citroen's luxury brand, DS Automobiles also arrived at Wingrove.

A new tri-brand million pound dealership was opened on the Silverlink in Wallsend, and the West Road site was rebuilt to accommodate Peugeot.

He also developed Wingrove into the biggest Citroen parts business in the UK and Wingrove was regularly placed amongst the top three Citroen dealers in the UK, with sales topping 1,000 vehicles each year.

In amongst his love of cars and motor racing, he was a keen sailor and traveller. He would regularly sail his boat from the mouth of the River Tyne all the way to the Canary Islands. Peter was incredibly fit.... t the age of 60 he took part in an Ironman event in Lanzarote which required a 2.4 mile swim, 112 miles bike ride and running a marathon.







In other words, Peter Dalkin never stood still. He was always looking at ways to develop the Wingrove Motor Company and future-proof it for continued success in the 21st Century.

He'll be sadly missed by his family and friends and by the thousands of people he came into contact with either at one of his car dealerships or at the hundreds of sporting events he attended.

Peter's hands on approach to running a successful family business will continue with his daughter Louise as Chairman and grandson Josh Parker as managing Director, along with the dedicated, loyal and hardworking staff that have grown with the business over the years, Peter's Wingrove Family.

An online book of Condolence can be found at www.wingrovemotorgroup. co.uk/pdalkin

RIP Peter Dalkin. Died 15th May 2022.

New Citroën C5 X and C5 X Plug-in Hybrid



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is perfect for a jogger.



Dacia is winning the space race.

There are times when you need a car that resembles a minibus but, let's face it, we don't really want to drive one that looks like...and probably is...a converted van.

However, a car which can seat up to seven people in comfort is something of a rarity these days. There used to be loads, but the tidal wave of the SUV has largely swept them away.

Which is where Dacia come into play with their latest model...the Dacia Jogger.

Although Dacia might be the budget brand of Renault, in many respects they're leading the way because they can be a tad more radical.

And when prices start at £16,645 it's very hard to ignore the common phrase..."you get a lot of metal for your money."

But to say the Dacia Jogger is only good because it's sensibly cheap, is to the miss the point by a country mile.

This is a seriously good car...and as long as it isn't carrying a team from the local Rugby Sevens, there's plenty of room for a family, school run, taking friends to the theatre etc. A lot of so-called 7-seaters are really 5-seater cars with a third row for the local Hobbits. Anyone larger than a small child will complain about being cramped. No so with the Dacia Jogger.

At the moment your sole mechanical choice is a 3-cylinder, 1.0 litre petrol engine mated to a manual gearbox. A 1.6 litre hybrid is in the pipeline. Performance is perfectly adequate and the 6-speed gearbox is sweet to use. Top speed is 114mph, 0-60mph takes around 11 seconds. You should get close to 50mpg.

When you hop into the Dacia Jogger you are met with design features and quality materials which you wouldn't expect in a car of this price. It certainly doesn't feel cheap. It looks and feels as though it will stand-up to life as a family holdall. You can juggle the interior seating arrangements. The third row of seats can be removed completely

to produce a huge load area or you can tumble the centre row forward to give those passengers in the third row sufficient room to stretch out. The ride is excellent. This will make for perfect long-distance holiday transportation.

There are three trim versions...Essential, Comfort and Extreme SE. The entry level Essential trim gives you tinted windows, air con, rear parking sensors, cruise control, DAB radio, powered front windows, and a holder for your smartphone to allow access for navigation and entertainment. However we like the Comfort trim. Okay it bumpsup the price by £1600 but it makes the Jogger feel a bit more special. You add a reversing camera, front parking sensors, auto air con, roof bars and a colour media display which also replicates the screen of your smartphone.

This is one of the most versatile, easy to live with, roomy, comfortable and, yes, cheap cars currently available. If it was horrible to drive and with a downmarket interior, we could sort of understand it when considering the price.

The fact that it's great to drive, will make long holiday journeys something to look forward to and, in Comfort trim, is reasonably equipped, it's no wonder that the Jogger is likely to become one of Dacia's biggest sellers.



MORE AWARDS FOR RELIABILITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION.

And up to 10 years warranty.

The regularity with which Lexus collect awards is staggering. The survey firms are probably looking for something else to measure apart from reliability and customer satisfaction.

But hang on, Auto Express have just announced results of their survey which looked at dealer aftersales service standards. Lexus won it last year and.... ah...Lexus have won it again for 2022.

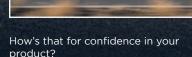
Back to the drawing board for the survey guys.

What it all means is that when it comes to Lexus, their cars are highly rated and so too are their dealers. It's a perfect combination for any car buyer.

We shouldn't be surprised. All you have to do is pop into either Lexus Newcastle or Lexus Teesside and you'll be greeted by a friendly, efficient service which puts customer satisfaction top of the priorities.....and it shows. Even the experts agree.

Back to awards. The Lexus NX won the Best Mid-Size Premium SUV title at the 2022 Auto Express New Car Awards. What Car? magazine named the Lexus NX 450h+ as its Plug-in Hybrid of the Year. The same event saw the LC 500 convertible honoured as the Best Highend Convertible and, yes, the word 'reliability' reared its head again because What Car? named Lexus as Best for Reliability.

To be fair, it is the reliability aspect which has encouraged Lexus to offer a 10 year / 100,000 mile warranty. This will delight a lot of Lexus owners because they tend to hold onto their car for longer periods. You get the standard 3 year / 60,000 mile warranty but then, as long as you get your Lexus serviced on an annual basis at an official Lexus Service Centre, you will get an additional warranty which runs for a year or 10,000 miles (whichever comes up first). You can keep this going until your car reaches either 10 years of age or 100,000 miles.



The Lexus range is steadily growing and more and more of their models are either hybrid, plug-in hybrid or full electric. By the time we reach 2025, Lexus say all of their cars will be offered with some sort of electrification.

Later this year (order books are open) the all-electric RZ will appear. The RZ450e will Lexus' first fully electric car. It's not a rehash of a current model... this is brand new from the ground up. With all-wheel drive and 310bhp on tap, it should be fantastic to drive. There's an option called One Motion Grip. It's a steer-by-wire bit of kit. The steering wheel, which is shaped like a bow tie, has no physical connection to the front wheels. Cool.

That's for the future.

If you want a premium SUV, and depending on what size of vehicle you need, go for the UX, NX and RX range.

Prefer a saloon set-up? No problem.... check out the ES and LS.

Or perhaps a sleek coupé is what you prefer. In that case you need to try the RC F or the LC. And don't forget the LC is also available as an award-winning convertible.

Want to see what the award-winning fuss is all about? Drop into Lexus Newcastle or Lexus Teesside and you'll soon find out



HYBRID POWER FOR BENTLEY BENTAYGA & FLYING SPUR -

PLUG & PLAY THE SUSTAINABLE WAY



Various words are fl wing through the veins of Bentley at the moment. Sustainability. Electrific tion. Power. Performance. Luxury.

The last three words are synonymous with Bentley but the first two are the new kids on the block.

By the time we reach 2026 every Bentley will have some sort of electric power in the form of a plug-in hybrid option. A fully electric Bentley is in the pipeline.

Electric power is on the way....get used to it. For some, it may take a bit of time to convert so Bentley can offer a halfway house. The Bentley Bentayga Hybrid and Bentley Flying Spur Hybrid.

The Bentley Bentayga is Bentley's top seller and the Hybrid model is leading the way. Yes the thrilling 4.0 litre V8 engine is still available, but the 3.0 litre PHEV hybrid that can reach 158 mph, hit 60mph in 5.2 seconds and travel for up to 25 miles in pure EV (Electric Vehicle) mode is the one which most people go for. It benefits from Bentley's smart navigation feature called Predictive E-Mode which lets the car choose the most appropriate power source throughout your journey. The idea is that you arrive home with an exhausted battery which can then be recharged.

The Bentley Flying Spur is also available with hybrid power. Power comes from a twin-turbo 2.9 litre V6 petrol engine

which, when you add in the power from the battery gives you an extremely healthy 410 bhp. Performance figures are similar to the V8 with the Flying Spur Hybrid reaching 177 mph and, thanks to the instant torque provided by its electric motor, hitting 60 mph from zero in 4.1 seconds. It can even drive at speeds of up to 87 mph on electric power alone.

If you make full use of the battery powered EV mode and your journey is under around 25 miles, you can do the whole trip using battery power alone. This means you get an official fuel economy figure of just over 85mpg.





BENTLEY NEWCASTLE - 01912 958 050 Silverlink Business Park, Kittiwake Close, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE28 9ND www.jct600.co.uk





Okay that's not going to happen, but what it shows is that if you drive sensibly you can actually make this sizeable, heavy car achieve a decent level of economy.

It also means that on a good day with a following wind, you could travel for close to 500 miles in the Flying Spur Hybrid before needing to fill the tank.

If you use a wall box charger, you can charge the battery of the Flying Spur and Bentayga hybrids in around 2 hours or so. If you use a domestic 3-pin socket it'll take 7-8 hours, but as long as your commute is in the region of 25 miles, you'll do the whole trip on battery power. If you've got solar panels at home or a wind turbine at work, your journey will have been totally free. Who said Bentleys cost a fortune to run?

Oh and if you visit he Bentley factory in Crewe, you'll see more evidence of sustainability. 100% of the electricity used at Bentley's manufacturing site in Crewe is sourced from renewable

generation via 30,000 on-site solar panels or purchased as certified green electricity. 10,000 of the panels create the UK's largest solar car port, covering 28 rows of the Crewe car park. Bentley has always been known for horsepower ...well now they're into flower power. They've installed a 50 metre square living wall at the Crewe HQ. The wall contains 2,650 different plants with over 28 different species of ferns, grasses and evergreens. Two bee hives have been installed on the grassland areas at the edge of the site and are now home to a colony of 300,000 honey bees.

The Bentley hybrids are two of their leading models. They make sense from a business-user perspective as well as for those owners who want to keep an eye on protecting the environment.

Interested? Get in touch with Bentley Newcastle on the Silverlink in Wallsend.

Prices for the Bentley Bentayga Hybrid start at £162,500 while the Flying Spur Hybrid comes in at £173,400.



Meet the team



Sheldon Cockburn, Head of Business



Matt Dalby, Sales Manager



Gordon Biswell, Business Manager



Sam Stevenson, Service Manager



Mel Wanless, Sales Executive



Lisa Neil, Sales Executive

EV DOES IT FOR KIA AT LOOKERS

It wasn't too long ago that the only reason to buy a Kia was because it had a 7-year warranty included as standard.

Wow....things have moved on since then. Kia now produces some of the smartest and best-driving cars on our roads.

Oh and they still come with a 7-year warranty.

If you need proof of how far Kia has come, just look at their EV6 model. It's a stunning all-electric car which could be the one which finally makes you decide to ditch the oil burners and help save the planet by going for an electric car. The fact that it also looks great and drives really well is a bonus.

It's also the reigning What Car? Car of the Year. Trust us....to win that award from the boffins at What Car? means the Kia EV6 is a seriously good car which ticks all of the boxes.

And bringing things bang up to date, the latest Which? awards have just named the Kia EV6 as a best buy in the large car category.

Incidentally, that win for the EV6 with What Car? was only the second time an electric car has won the overall title. So.. what was the first one we here you ask?

A Kia e-Niro in 2019. You sort of get the message that Kia is good at producing electric cars. By the way, a new electric Niro has just hit our roads. Kia is probably making some room in their awards cabinet at this very moment.

Okay, the Kia EV6 is a large car but if you wanted something a tad smaller, that's not a problem because you can choose the Kia Soul EV which has just won the Which? Best Buy gong for the Small Electric SUV category. It won also the accolade of being named as World Urban Car of the Year in 2020. Auto



Trader named the Soul EV as Best Value Electric Car.

Of course, not everyone wants to go down the electric route at the moment... but a lot of folk plainly want to go down the Kia route using a mixture of conventional and hybrid power. This explains with the Kia Sportage is



currently the 7th best-selling new car in the UK and the Kia Niro, which has won the recent Small SUV of the Year title at the annual Auto Express New Car Awards, is 8th.

Kia is a company on the move. Their products are lightyears away from their first offerings in the UK. They're all hugely desirable and, thanks to their extensive range of vehicles, there's a car with a Kia badge that will suit just about everybody.

Want to find out more? Get in touch with Lookers Kia via their website or why not pop into their dealerships on Railway Street in Newcastle. There'll be an electric welcome waiting for you.



Take the lead. Drive Electric.





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www.lookers.co.uk/kia



škoda and q... MASTERS of INVENTION

Q is the technical genius behind the gadgets which James Bond has access to. He always keeps on producing something extremely clever.

And there's a similarity with the latest range of ŠKODA cars because there are some seriously good cars and four of the best have a Q in their name

Enyaq, Kodiaq, Karoq and Kamiq.

The ŠKODA Kamiq is a compact SUV which is equally suited on city streets or country lanes.

The ŠKODA Karoq is a slightly larger SUV which fits into the mid-size class.

The ŠKODA Kodiaq is a bigger SUV which can seat up to seven people in comfort. It's the reigning Auto Express Best Large SUV.

And the ŠKODA Enyaq is a large, family-sized SUV which differs from its stablemates because it is 100 per cent electric. It's the first fully electric car to come from ŠKODA and it's gone straight to the top of the electric car...it really is that good.

ŠKODA

The Enyaq has been named in the latest Which? awards as the best buy in the medium to large SUV category. It's also been named as Best Value Electric Car by Auto Trader and won the Best Family Car gong at the annual Autocar awards.

You can even get an Enyaq as a seriously handsome coupé. It's the first all-electric ŠKODA to wear the vRS

ŠKODA also give buyers an option of going for a halfway house between petrol or diesel power and full electric, by offering PHEVs....plug-in hybrids. The

For more information

Click Here

ŠKODA Octavia (current Auto Express Estate Car of the Year) and Superb are available with hybrid power and, if you go for PHEV power, you can drive for an estimated 41 miles on battery power alone. For many people that sort of mileage will easily account for a daily commute. Plug it in when you get home and take advantage of cheaper electric during the night (free if you have solar panels) and you can enjoy massive savings over the current extortionate fuel prices.

Look elsewhere in the ŠKODA range you'll find the Scala and recently launched latest version of the hugely popular Fabia, and it's easy to see why ŠKODA goes from strength to strength. The Czech manufacturer was launched into the UK as a junior brand to the Volkswagen parent company. Fast forward to 2022 and ŠKODA is now firmly established in its own right as a producer of high quality, innovative cars.

If you'd like to find out more, check of the Lookers ŠKODA website or call into their dealership on Railway Street in Newcastle.

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If you are in the market for a new car, a new question you need to ask yourself appeared two years ago. That was when the UK government announced that it intended to ban the sales of all cars powered by conventional petrol and diesel engines by the year 2030.

Hybrid cars which have a mixture of petrol or diesel engine and battery power, were to be given a stay of execution until 2035.

In other words, whether you like it or not, you will need to start thinking about switching to all-electric power.

It is to their huge credit that Volkswagen was one of the fir t major manufacturers to begin producing electric cars that were purpose-built for the job. They produced cars which weren't a re-hash of a current model...they got cracking and built cars that were designed from the ground-up to be electrically powered.

First out of the blocks was the Volkswagen ID.3. It showed us what we could expect in the future. It arrived



in early 2020 and was an immediate hit. Here was a car which looked good and, crucially, drove in exactly the same manner as any other family-sized hatchback except it didn't have an engine and there were no gears.

The ID.3 has gone on to spawn other models such as the ID.4, ID.5 and seriously funky ID.Buzz.

The ID range continues to rack-up awards like confetti. What Car? named the ID.3 as their Electric Car of the Year. They also gave it their Safety Award. Auto Express named it as Small Company Car of the Year. Top Gear. com gave it their Game Changer award. The ID.4 went one step further and was named World Car of the Year as well as being named as a Best Buy at the recent Which? awards. The ID.3 was also recommended.

We shouldn't be surprised by the number of awards. The ID.4 for example can travel for up to 320 miles on a full charge, and if you plug into a rapid charger, you'll boost the battery from 5% to 80% in under 40 minutes. These figu es make electric car ownership



feasible for most people.

Thankfully, Volkswagen continues to provide an alternative by producing what it's always been good at....petrol and diesel engine cars. Most models in their range also have a hybrid option.

And the car which is synonymous with Volkswagen, the Golf, continues to sell like hot cakes. It is currently the 4th biggest selling car in the UK. Oh, and the Polo is also in the top 10.

Electric, petrol, diesel or hybrid. SUV, MPV, hatchback, saloon, estate or coupé. There's something for everyone in the Volkswagen range.

And you can find out all of the details by going onto the Lookers Volkswagen website or, even better, why not pop into their dealerships at the Silverlink in Wallsend or on Scotswood Road in Newcastle.

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BMW QUICKENS THE PACE WITH THIS SUPER COUPÉ

The M240i xDrive is a stunner.

It's probably an age thing, but if there's one thing we like more than anything else here at AutOh!, it's the sound of a straight six, V8 or V12 engine. The fi e-cylinder Volvos were pretty good too. They have the power to excite.

It's not all about performance. In fact, a lot of big engines are at their fine t when you are cruising gently.

If we had to pick one firm the thas produced a stream of wonderful six-cylinder engines, it has to be BMW.

Of course the days of thumping big internal combustion engines are drawing to a close, so let's make the most of them....and this BMW M240i xDrive is the sort of car you'd buy, cherish and keep..... forever

Having said that it's not all about performance...well...even though this 368bhp all-wheel drive coupé is more than happy to burble along, it can also make your spine tingle. 0-60 comes up in a shade over 4 seconds. Top speed is 150mph. The noise from the exhaust and from under the bonnet is a joy to behold. Try to resist using the power and playing with the gearbox (both unlikely) and you won't be far away from mid 30s mpg. You can let the gearbox do its own thing, but if you want to really enjoy this car, use the manual gearshift paddles behind the steering wheel.

And the car can cope with all of that



power because it comes with its own unique suspension set-up. If you go for the adaptive suspension and select comfort mode, the ride is surprisingly forgiving. Okay it jolts a bit over potholes but it's certainly not jarring and, bearing in mind that this is a serious performance car, you can make smooth progress.

£48,110 gets you into this BMW M240i xDrive and although there are one or two options available, the car comes fully loaded with leather upholstery, sports seats...they're really comfy with the exact level of support...LED head and rear lights, sat nav, air con, parking sensors front and rear and a whole host of driver safety gadgets. There's a 10.3 inch display screen which is operated



by the magnifi ent iDrive system. Why other manufacturers don't come up with something like this is nuts. There's a rotary dial between the front seats and all you do is twist and press to scroll through something like the sat nav or the audio settings. It's simple to use and so much easier than having to prod a screen as you drive along.

Even though this is a two-door coupé, it is capable of carrying four adults. Okay those who sit in the back don't have acres of room, but the seats are handy to have. If you're in the front seats you've got plenty of leg and head room.

Out on the road, this BMW is huge fun but remarkably civilised. A lot of performance-focussed cars have a ride which will give you blurred vision, and can be a bit of a handful to drive smoothly which, to be fair, is what we all do for most of the time due to weight of traffic. hankfully, this BMW M240i xDrive gives you the best of all worlds.

It's comfortable, happy to dawdle around town or cruise along the motorway, but also equally eager to give the driver some fun when the conditions allow. It's fully equipped and, bearing in mind it's a fairly compact coupé, there's room for four people.



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HOLIDAY ON WHEELS THE FREEDOM TO DISCOVER.

We would all like to go on holiday soon, but with continued restrictions and doubts over the safety of many destinations, holidaying in the UK is now even more attractive. And what better way to do this than in your own luxury 'home on wheels'.

For more information Click Here



One of the words we hear frequently at Tyne Valley Motorhomes is FREEDOM –freedom to be able to take a break when-ever you want, freedom to be in your own space, freedom to come and go as you like and after a year of lockdown, freedom to move around has become even more precious.

Being self sufficient within your own bub-ble and having every luxury at your fin-gertips means you can enjoy great UK destinations.

With 'opening up', many events are now back on the calendar and many attractions are open to see. Staying as a family and using a motorhome to attend these activities is a great way to travel.

There is no doubt that there will be a huge demand from those wishing to enjoy their new found 'freedom' and wish to holiday in safety and luxury in the UK, so act now and get ahead of the pent up demand.









NEW 2022 MODELS

Our show site is now open, stocked with many new models including our Exclusive Signature Range. Before then do some homework by visiting our website and requesting a video show round -

www.tynevalleymotorhomes.co.uk

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Call Simon or Jonathan now on 01207 272777. they will be happy to advise you about gaining your freedom to travel in style











England's TOP BEACHES for EV drivers revealed and NUMBER 1 is in the North East

Everyone now and then at AutOh! we receive a press release from a manufacturer which is generally supposed to give us some hot news.

We've just received one from Citroen UK.

This latest missive was to tell everyone that the best beach in England was here in the North East....Roker and Seaburn beaches to be precise.

Granted, to be told that we have some of the best beaches in the country isn't exactly news for those of us who live here. You can add Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Marsden, Alnmouth, Bamburgh, Warkworth, Druridge etc etc. the list

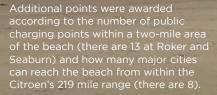
Okay it wasn't the most scientific piece of research you'll ever read, but it's always nice when our region is given a pat on the back. It might generate some additional tourism...although we don't want it to get too busy and ruin everything for us locals.

So, what was the real reason behind this



Simple. It's to promote the fact that electric cars are getting better when it comes to range.

Beaches across England were ranked according to quality of charging infrastructure and number of cities within the 219-mile range of a Citroën ë-C4 electric car. Roker and Seaburn beaches (Citroen helpfully point out that they're near to Sunderland which is in Tyne & Wear apparently!!) came out on top, followed by Brighton and Bournemouth.



They also point out that a 400-mile round trip from their head office in Birmingham to Roker and Seaburn beaches costs less than £30 when the time comes to recharge the battery, although with electricity prices still rocketing it's tricky trying to guesstimate an exact price as we go to print, but £30 is a useful marker. Oh and electric C4 from flat to 80%, you can do it in around 30 minutes from a 100kW rapid charger. A full charge can be completed in 7.5 hours from a 7kW fast charger which should be fine because you'll probably spend a full day at the beach anyway.

So first place goes to Roker and Seaburn 219 mile range include Birmingham and Liverpool. For electric car drivers based in London, second placed Brighton beach is a short 53-mile drive away and offers more than 120 public chargers within a two-mile radius, including 20 fast chargers (7-22kW) and four rapid chargers (25kW and higher). They fail to point out that Brighton is largely shingle and horrible to walk on. It's really tricky to take part in that British beach tradition....digging a hole. We have stunning stretches of golden sand. You can easily dig two holes and get







your hands to meet in the bottom of the tunnel. Don't deny you haven't done it.

Third place Bournemouth Beach can be reached from six major cities and features the highest number of rapid chargers (five). With 100kW rapid charging capability, a 0-80% charge for Citroën ë-C4 can take as little as 30 minutes, while for those enjoying a whole day at the seaside,

Whitby came 6th.

Eurig Druce, Citroën UK's Managing Director, said: "The summer getaways to the beaches are now underway, and our research shows some of England's best seaside locations can easily be reached on a single charge using electric cars like Citroën ë-C4. Our research also shows how many of the best beaches in the country are close to public charging stations, making the journey even easier in an electric vehicle"

And just in case you were interested, the Citroën ë-C4 Electric features a 50kWh lithium-ion battery pack paired with an electric motor producing 136hp. It forms part of the electrification strategy for the Citroën brand which will see it provide electrified variants across each model in the range by 2025.

So there you go....the North East is ranked at number one for the best beach

Sadly we're not at number one for the best weather. It's tossing it down as we bash out this article. No change there then.

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